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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,476	03/31/2004	Valery Poulbot	P10-1388 US	7747

21839 7590 01/12/2007
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
POST OFFICE BOX 1404
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

ALLEN, ANDRE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2855

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,476

Applicant(s)

POULBOT ET AL.

Examiner

Andre J. Allen

Art Unit

2855

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application.
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claims are directed toward a method of continuous measurement of the wear on a tire by a collection of steps comprising measuring and deducing the height of a tread pattern element. The parameters being measured are capacitance and/or resistance and are understood to be abstract. The collection of that comprise the method is not "a practical application of an abstract idea" as required by *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc.*, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1998). Neither does the claimed invention produce a "useful, concrete, and tangible result" as required by *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc.*, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02. The analysis focuses on

claim 1; the dependent claims only add details on how the abstract parameters are determined, and have no separately statutory features.

The claims are non-transformatory. The claims do not recite any physically transformative operations either in the measurement/deducing of the parameters or in their use. For instance, the claims do not specify that the deduction of the element dictates actual output to a vehicle driveline and/or user. Neither do the claims specify with what device or structure the parameters are determined. For instance, the measurement of capacitance and/or resistance of "a tread element" can be done by a (i) software package run by an onboard or external computer (ii) physically sensing/measuring parameters of the tread element (iii) or by a visual examination of a tread element. The claims lack a description of the process by which the parameters are determined or a practical application of the determined parameters.

The claims are not concrete. The claims leave open the question of what are "output torque limits." The method of determining output torque limits, as set forth by the claims, is a compilation of data, independent of physical form. The specification provides a description of a process that only manipulates abstract ideas or concepts (wherein limits

and space are read as abstract ideas and mathematical concepts). The invention set forth in the claims does not produce a tangible result.

Through the above analysis, it can be seen that merely "measuring and or deducing" would not appear to be sufficient to constitute a tangible result, since the outcome of the steps has not been used in a disclosed practical application nor made available in such a manner that it's usefulness in a disclosed practical application can be realized. Furthermore, the steps of measuring and or deducing" do not involve any physical transformation of data, or produce any physically perceptible result outside of the abstraction of individual thought. For the abovementioned reasons, claims 1-4 are not statutory under 35 USC 101.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre J. Allen whose telephone number is 571-272-2174. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-

Art Unit: 2855

2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



André Allen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2855